

February 23, 2015

Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations Committee. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS. With this budget proposal, the Governor has once again recommended elimination of funding for the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut, BIAC. using the same misinformation which has been used for the past seven years, that BIAC is solely an advocacy organization. BIAC is a crucial Connecticut service organization assisting thousands of state residents.

As a Brain Injury Survivor myself and having interfaced with many other survivors in the BIAC Support Groups I've facilitated, there's a common Brain Injury trait that the Governor's office is exhibiting. That is short term memory deficits. This is shown by the repeated incorrect classification of BIAC.

Each year since 2009, the Governor has recommended eliminating BIAC's funding in his budget proposal. The Appropriations Committee has successfully restored the funding each year after hearing from hundreds of survivors, family members and professionals over the years about the importance of this funding.

The state meets several required obligations of the Federal Medicaid ABI Waiver program by contracting BIAC through The Department of Social Services. This contract is used as evidence in several sections of the Waiver application showing that DSS, and therefore the state, is meeting the obligations of this federal program. BIAC's services only cost the state \$120,920 last year.

Brain injuries have been in the national and local news a lot lately. Almost weekly, I've seen reports of cases resulting from sports concussions (professional and school levels) and war injuries. I don't think Connecticut wants to be seen as under supporting this increasingly growing national issue.

Thank you for your time.

Michael Jennings, 12E Wiggins Farm Drive, Simsbury (860) 707-4222